THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to vide fluctuations from time to time.

The outstanding payable for Pool Account is estimated to be about Rs. 15,500 crores as on 31.3.97.

The position of Pool Account is monitored continuously for remedial measures.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies Maharashtra

1353. DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken so far to allot petrol pumps and gas agencies in Maharashtra despite the interviews having been held by the OSB for the purpose in 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps would be taken to effect early allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) All selection activities were stayed after the announcement of General Elections in March, 1996. In a large number of selections made by the OSB (Maharashtra, Goa Daman & Diu), Government guidelines were violated. Accordingly, taking into account all relevant factors, Government issued instructions to the Oil Industry on October 22, 1996, as to the manner in which the merit panels released by various OSBs, including OSB (Maharashtra), with inordinate delay should be dealt with. These instructions are a subject matter before the Mumbai High Court in a writ petition. Oil companies already have taken action in accordance with the above instructions.

Oil Production at Ravva Structure in Andhra Pradesh

1354. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the daily production of oil at Rawa structure, off East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what was the annual production from this structure in 1995-96, in tonnes;

(c) the expected production in 1996-97, in tonnes; and

(d) the cash value of the 1995-96 oil production of Rawa structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Present average daily oil production from Rawa field is around 35,000 barrels (approx. 4673 tonnes) per day.

(b) Total oil production during 1995-96 was of the order of 157631 tonnes.

(c) Expected oil production during 1996-97 is 823560 tonnes.

(d) Value of oil production from Rawa field duYing 1995-96 works out to US$ 20.4 million.

Rise in International Prices of Petroleum

1355. SHRIMATI VEEN A VERM A:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil import bill for the current year is likely to go much above the estimates with the rise in petroleum crude prices in the international market, causing a big budget deficit;

(b) if so, the extent of rise in international oil prices and to what extent it would widen the budget deficit; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to bridge this gap?